AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the instant application. Claims 29-32 and 34 have been amended to further clarify the language. The Applicant submits that the claims 1-41 define patentable subject matter in view of the following remarks and arguments.

Listing of claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A data center, comprising:

a first tier comprising a first server;

a second tier coupled to the first tier, the second tier comprising a second server; and

a third tier coupled to the second tier, the third tier comprising a third server,

wherein one or more of the first server, the second server and/or the third server handles a plurality of different traffic types concurrently over a single fabric using a single connector.

2.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the first server handles at least network traffic and direct attached storage (DAS) traffic over the single fabric.

3.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the first server uses a single controller for handling at least network traffic and DAS traffic.

4.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the second server handles at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, and cluster traffic over the single fabric.

5.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the second server uses a single controller for handling at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, and cluster traffic.

6.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 5, wherein storage traffic comprises traffic from a redundant-array-of-independent-disks (RAID) configuration or traffic from storage devices accessible via a network.

7.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the second tier comprises an application tier.

8.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the third server handles at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, and cluster traffic over the single fabric.

9.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the third server uses a single controller for handling at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, and cluster traffic.

10.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the single fabric is based upon a layer 2 (L2) protocol.

11.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the single fabric is based upon an Ethernet.

12.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the single fabric is based upon a transport/network protocol.

13.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 12, wherein the transport/network protocol comprises a transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).

14.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the first server, the second server and/or the third server uses an Internet small computer system interface (iSCSI) protocol in communicating with storage.

15.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 14, wherein the iSCSI protocol runs on top of TCP/IP.

16.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 14, wherein the iSCSI protocol runs on top of remote direct memory access protocol (RDMAP).

17.   (Previously Presented) The data center according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the first server, the second server and/or the third server uses an RDMAP for interprocess communication.

18.   (Previously Presented) A server, comprising:

an integrated chip; and

a single Ethernet connector coupled to the integrated chip, wherein the Ethernet connector and the integrated chip can concurrently handle a plurality of different types of traffic.

19.   (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 18,

wherein the server comprises a blade server, and

wherein the integrated chip is part of a blade mounted in the blade server.

20.   (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 18, wherein the server has a single Internet protocol (IP) address.

21.   (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 18, wherein the server is part of a data center.

22.   (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 18, wherein the Ethernet connector handles the plurality of different types of traffic over a single fabric.

23.   (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 18, wherein the Ethernet connector comprises a single Ethernet connector.

24.   (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 18, wherein the integrated chip comprises a single integrated chip.

25.   (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 18, wherein the plurality of different types of traffic comprises at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic.

26.   (Previously Presented) A method for communication, the method comprising:

routing a plurality of different types of traffic for a server via a single fabric comprising a single layer 2 (L2) connector; and

concurrently handling the plurality of different types of traffic for the server via the single L2 connector.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the single fabric comprises an Ethernet-based fabric.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the single fabric comprises a transport protocol/network protocol-based fabric.

29.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein (b) routing said plurality of different types of traffic for said server comprises accessing a storage device via the single L2 connector.

30.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein (b) routing said plurality of different types of traffic for said server comprises accessing a cluster via the single L2 connector.

31.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein (b) routing said plurality of different types of traffic for said server comprises accessing a network via the single L2 connector.

32.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein ~~(b)~~ routing said plurality of different types of traffic for said server comprises handling the plurality of different types of traffic via an Ethernet connector of the server.

33.   (Previously Presented) A method for communication, the method comprising:

in a data center, accessing a storage system over a single fabric, wherein said single fabric comprises a single layer 2 (L2) connector that is enabled to concurrently handle a plurality of different types of traffic; and

accessing one or more of a cluster and a network over said single fabric.

34.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein ~~(a), (b) and (c)~~ said accessing to said storage system, over said single fabric are performed over a single Ethernet connector of a server in the data center.

35.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the single Ethernet connector has a single Internet protocol (IP) address.

36.   (Previously Presented) A system for communication, the system comprising:

an integrated circuit that enables concurrent processing of a plurality of different types of traffic that are received via a single layer 2 (L2) connector that is communicatively coupled to said integrated circuit.

37.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein said integrated circuit is an integrated chip that comprises a layer 2 network interface

card (L2 NIC), a transmission control protocol (TCP) processor, an iSCSI processor and a remote direct memory access (RDMA) processor.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein said plurality of different types of network traffic comprises at least two of a network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic.

39. (Previously Presented) A method for communication, the method comprising:

concurrently handling via an integrated circuit, a plurality of different types of traffic that are received via a single layer 2 (L2) connector that is communicatively coupled to said integrated circuit.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said integrated circuit is an integrated chip that comprises a layer 2 network interface card (L2 NIC), a transmission control protocol (TCP) processor, an iSCSI processor and a remote direct memory access (RDMA) processor.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said plurality of different types of network traffic comprises at least two of a network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic.